India's share in world exports in agricultural produce

3631. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's share of agricultural produce in world exports;

(b) whether Government have farmed any strategy to boost export of agricultural products during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) India's share of exports of agricultural produce is less than 1% of the world trade of about US $300 billion.

(b) and (c) The main elements of the strategy to step up exports of agricultural products are:—

(i) increase in production and productivity of important items, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, spices cashewnuts, oilseeds, basmati rice, etc.

(ii) improved price competitiveness;

(iii) aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibitions, holding of buyer-seller meets and inter-action with importers;

(iv) value addition; and

(v) quality assurance programmes.

Intensiveness of India's Exports

3632. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports are still import intensive;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to lower the import contents of Indian exports;

(c) whether Government have drawn any concrete programme/policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The import intensity varies from commodity to commodity. While it is high in the case of exports of Gems and Jewellery, the import intensity is marginal or low in the case of export of primary products like agricultural products and mineral products.

(b) to (d) The new EXIM policy 1992-97, *inter alia,* aims to promote efficient and internationally competitive import substitution and self-reliance under a deregulated framework for foreign trade. It also seeks to foster the country's Research and Development (R & D) and Technological capabilities. Under the policy, 'Deemed Exports' have been defined as transactions in which the goods supplied do not leave the country but earn scarce foreign exchange for the country. Benefits such as duty exemption schemes, duty drawback schemes and refund of terminal excise duty have been extended to deemed exports. Besides, the Government have also launched, in association with trade and industry, a major nation-wide campaign on quality and to take other steps to bring Indian products to world standards.

Growing, rubber in non-traditional areas

3633. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to grow rubber in non-traditional areas of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.